



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Salmon-Challis  
National Forest  
Leadore Ranger District

PO Box 180, 176 N Railroad St.  
Leadore, ID 83464  
208 768-2500

**File Code:** 2210/2230

**Date:** May 20, 2015

Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland  
PO Box 125  
Carmen, ID 83462

Dear Bruce, Dave or Tom,

The following letter will document your meeting with Ingrid Drieling, Tom and Seth McFarland on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments for the 2015 grazing season. The authorized use for the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments for cattle with the (I, A/ and O brands will be as follows:

**Permitted Use**

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Burns Basin C&H	Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland	126 c/c	381	6/1-8/31
Carmen Creek C&H	Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland	55 c/c	193	6/16-9/30

**Authorized Use for the 2015 Grazing Season**

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Burns Basin C&H	Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland	120 c/c 6 bulls	381	6/1-8/31
Carmen Creek C&H	Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland	55 c/c	58 29	7/15-8/15 9/15-9/30

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Burns Basin C&amp;H</b>	Little 4 <sup>th</sup> /Lower Silverleads	120 c/c, 6 bulls	46	6/5-6/15
	Burns Basin	120 c/c, 6 bulls	104	6/16-7/10
	Lower Silverleads	120 c/c, 6 bulls	62	7/11-7/25
	Upper Silverleads & Upper Wagonhamer	120 c/c, 6 bulls	141	7/26-8/28
	Middle Wagonhammer	incidental use from trailing to next unit		
<b>Carmen Creek</b>	Carmen Creek	55 c/c	58	7/15-8/15
	Carmen Face	55 c/c	29	9/15-9/30



Only cattle with the O , A/ and (I brands are authorized to graze on the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments. The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. Dates listed in the authorized use section may vary based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Tina Ruffing, the Rangeland Management Specialist assigned to your allotments, and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.** Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by an authorized officer. Any extension of use beyond the permitted dates will not be authorized.

### **Allowable Use**

The allowable use standards for the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments are listed below. It is your responsibility to be aware and recognize utilization and alteration standards. You must move your livestock to the next unit planned, or off the allotment, when those standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Tina and she will assist you. **Once cattle are removed from a unit in accordance with use standards and unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Please ensure you clean all livestock from your units.** The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. Monitoring typically occurs within two weeks of your unit move date. Please contact Tina if you would like to join range staff when monitoring is done on your allotments.

### **Burns Basin C&H**

Riparian sites:

A minimum stubble height of **5 inches** on the current year's growth of key riparian species.

Upland sites:

Maximum of **50%** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.

### **Carmen Creek C&H**

<b>Key Area Location #</b>	<b>Unit Name Creek Name</b>	<b>Monitoring Attribute</b>	<b>Use Indicator</b>	<b>Key Species</b>	<b>Trigger</b>
<b>MIM 334</b>	Carmen Creek	Browse Use	50%	Willow	45%
Converted to a photo point in 2011; Baseline data was collected in 2014	Carmen Creek		30%	Alder	25%
		Greenline Stubble	4 in.	Hydric spp	5 in.
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
<b>Upland Sites</b>	<b>All Units</b>	Utilization	50%	Upland Grasses	45%
<b>Riparian Areas</b>	<b>All Units</b>	Utilization by key Species	50%	Rip. grass species	45%

### **Biological Assessment and Opinion requirements**

The Biological Opinion for the Carmen Creek C&H Allotment laid out the following measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce the potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
2. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.
3. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
4. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will continue to reduce impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.

### **Range Improvements**

Range improvements listed in Part 3 of your grazing permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. Contact your Rangeland Management Specialist to discuss materials and supplies for any improvements that are in need of re-construction.

You were provided with an improvement list and map to document the condition of the Range Improvements on your allotment. Please complete the document and return it to Tina at your earliest convenience.

During your spring meeting, you discussed that you would like to move the cattle guard on the Carmen Creek Unit up the road to mitigate the gate being left open.

### **General Management**

The grazing fees for 2015 are the base rate of \$1.69 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due prior to your earliest turnout date.

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation. **Effective March 20th, 2015 the Salmon Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads or off road travel. This must be displayed in windshield for Trucks or carried on ATV's, UTV's and Motorcycles. Contact your Rangeland Management Specialist to obtain a Vehicle Use Permit for any closed road or off-road travel.**

Approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds.

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center in Salmon, ID at (208) 756-5157.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Tina Ruffing at (208) 756-5226 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jay T. Winfield*

JAY WINFIELD  
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records